

REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

CURTAILMENT OF COLLECTION OF GRAIN TAX
FROM KWANGSI MINORITY NATIONALITIES

The report did not elaborate on the nature of the calamities; instead, it claimed that many improvements in the life of the minority nationalities were made in 1951. The report follows:

The political consciousness of 6 million fraternal nationalities of the province has been elevated, unity among them has been strengthened, and initial improvements in the life of these groups have been achieved.

Members of minority nationality groups, in a proportionate ratio participate or attend the conferences of all-circles representatives or peasant congresses on the provincial, special ch'u, hsien, ch'u, and hsiang levels. The

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Kwangsi People's Government, in cooperation with its special offices in Kuei-lin, Liu-chou, and Pai-se, held special conferences on minority nationality work. Twice, minority nationalities have sent representatives to Peiping to participate in the celebration of the national holiday. They have also sent representatives to attend the conferences of the National Committee of the China People's Political Consultative Conference and the conferences of the Central-South China Military and Administrative Committee.

After the visit of the Central People's Government Mission to the minority nationalities in July 1951, the Kwangsi People's Government actively expanded the establishing of regional autonomy in the minority nationality areas. At present, regional autonomous democratic administrations have been established in the following areas: two regional autonomous governments in the Ta-yao Shan area, an autonomous government of the Tung-shan Yao nationality in Ch'uan Hsien, and 12 autonomous Hsiang governments. A coalition government has also been established in Lung-sheng Hsien.

Initial improvements in the livelihood of the minority nationalities were made by reducing their burdensome grain tax, granting them relief food, and developing their trade. Taking into account the difficulties and the serious calamities which harassed the minority nationalities, the Kwangsi People's Government reduced the amount of grain tax collected from the minority nationalities in 1951. In some cases, the minority nationalities were exempted from paying the grain tax.

The minority nationalities of Tung-nan Hsiang and Tung-pei Hsiang in Hsiang Hsien were given 50,000 catties of relief rice as well as being exempted from paying their grain tax. During 1951, Lung-sheng Hsien furnished 116,000 catties of relief rice and loaned 140,000 catties of rice to the farmers. The Kwangsi People's Government purchased local products as another means of improving the livelihood of the minority nationalities. State trading companies in Wuchow, Liu-chou, and Ping-lo areas bought nearly 10 billion yuan of native products from Ta-yao Shan and its adjacent areas.

In developing cultural and health work among the minority nationalities, many cadres were trained. There are 114 minority nationality cadres in the Lung-sheng, Pai-shou, Ming-chuan, and I-hsing areas of Kuei-lin Special Ch'u now engaged in culture and health work. In addition, there are more than 300 minority nationality students attending training classes in various courses.

According to an investigation carried on in the spring of 1951, there are 232 minority nationality schools located in 10 Hsien. Adult education has also been developed. For example, in Lung-sheng Hsien there are 313 newspaper reading groups, and almost every village has a peasant literacy class and a women's literacy class. There are more than 1,400 adult students, of which 70 percent are women, attending the evening schools in two ch'us in Lung-sheng Hsien.

In the health field, the Central People's Government organized a medical treatment team in February 1951 which furnished the minority nationalities with medical supplies valued at 29,590,000 yuan and free medical treatment. In addition, the medical team assigned to the Central People's Government Mission gave free medical treatment in the minority nationality areas they visited.

As shown by the aforementioned activities, the minority nationalities in Kwangsi are now busily engaged in changing the old economic and political systems which have exploited and oppressed them. They have already removed the discriminations which degraded and reduced their cultural and social position. The Yao people fittingly sing: "Makes no difference whether Yao or Han [Chinese], under heaven the poor belong to one family freedom flower blooms everywhere."

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